Observance of 'Oil Conservation Week'

125. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:
SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an 'Oil Conservation Week' was observed in January this year at the instance of his Ministry to focus attention on the importance of conservation of petroleum products;

(b) if so, what schemes and programmes were initiated in this connection; and

(c) what is the impact thereof from January, 1991 till date?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): (a) Yes, Sir. An Oil Conservation Week was observed from 7th to 13th January, 1991 to create mass awareness for the conservation of petroleum products.

(b) During the Oil Conservation week over 1600 activities of different types were undertaken for creating/increasing mass awareness about the benefits of conserving petroleum products. These activities related to the transport, agricultural, industrial and household sectors of the economy. The important among the activities were clinics, workshops, seminars, talks, truck and tractor sammelans, exhibitions, debates, quiz competitions, paint ing competitions, compaigns for promoting use of lubricating oils of superior quality and fuel-efficient equipment and oil conservation runs.

(c) The objective of enlarging the base of and increasing mass awareness for the conservation of petroleum products has been achieved in a substantial measure. It is, however, not feasible to quantify prescisely the impact of the Oil Conservation Week separately in terms of saving of petroleum products.

Fair distribution of Petroleum Products

126. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:
SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHA-
SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government attention has been drawn to the long queues at the petrol and diesel pumps and kerosene distribution centres in Delhi and towards the complaints of hoarding and black-marketing in these commodities in the wake of Gulf War.

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to ensure fair distribution of these items and to prevent their hoarding and black-marketing; and

(c) what is the present stock position of petroleum products in the country?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): (a) Long queues were noticed at petrol and diesel pumps in Delhi between January 14-16, 1991. However, no queues were reported at kerosene distribution centres. Some complaints regarding black-marketing of diesel were also received.

(b) The following steps have been taken to ensure smooth distribution of petroleum products.

(i) inspections of retails outlets by oil companies and Delhi Administration have been intensified to check hoarding black-marketing and other mal-practices.

(ii) appeals have been made to the public to avoid panic buying

and the people have been assured about adequate availability of petroleum products.

(iii) Delhi Administration has issued orders on 15th February, 1991 banning sale of HSD in jerry cans/barrels or any other containers.

(iv) additionall releases of HSD have been made in January-February 1991 over and above the normal entitlement for Delhi.

(c) The country has adequate stocks of petroleum products at present.

Setting up of privately managed Engineering and Medical Colleges in States

127. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the State Governments, such as Uttar Pradesh, have decided to permit privately managed engineering and medical colleges in their respective States;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what steps are contemplated to ensure that these institutions conform to the guidelines laid down by the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAJ MANGAL PANDE): (a) to (c) The statutory All India Council for Technical Education AICTE) has laid down norms and guidelines for fulfilment by private technical institutions for AICTE's approval. Such proposals are required to be routed through the States concerned. Some States like Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh have recommended proposals from private societies for setting up new Engineering Colleges. No such proposal has been received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh.

In view of need to control the establishment of new medical colleges legally, the Government of India have incorporated a provision in the Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill, now before the Parliament, that no new medical college should be established or no increase in the seats should be allowed without the prior approval of Medical Council of India and the Government of India.

Use of more coal as a source of energy

128. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA:

SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose in use more coal as a source of energy in view of the shortage of petroleum products; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI KALYAN SINGH KALVI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Coal companies have been instructed to make more coal available to small users including Special Smokless Fuel plants, Briquetting units and households in order to reduce pressure on consumption of petroleum products and firewood. Some of the steps taken are as follows:—

(i) Increased despatch of coal to the thermal power stations, steel plants and cement industries

(ii) Increased supply of coal and coal based fuels to households.

(iii) Six million tonnes of coal has been offered under 'Liberalised Scale Scheme' at noticed collieries|stockyards

(iv) Additional 2 million tonnes of coal has been set aside under 'Liberalised Sale Scheme' for SSF